

Claims 16, 30, 42, 48, 54 and 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Behr et al. in view of Kline et al. and further in view of Imielinski et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

It should be noted that Kline et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,943,398) has a patent date of August 24, 1999. The present invention was filed prior to this date on February 10, 1999. Therefore, Kline et al. can only qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C § 102(e), as having an earlier filing date. The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that the Kline et al. patent and the present invention are commonly assigned. Therefore, by filing a CPA on today's date, (which is after November 29, 1999), Applicant is now entitled to the exclusion of commonly owned or assigned prior art under 35 U.S.C §§ 103(c)/102(e). See the O.G. Notice at 1233 OG 54 (April 11, 2000). Therefore, the rejections of record have been rendered moot and should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Moreover, Applicant traverses these rejections for the following reasons. The Examiner notes that Behr et al. shows a system wherein a person utilizes a portable data entry device to request travel directions. A computer system discerns the requested travel directions and transmits a data stream back to the portable unit.

Kline et al. show a mailbox management system. In the system, a text message received by the mailbox is sent to a translation service, which translates the text message into voice. The voice message is saved back in the user's mailbox and can be later retrieved by the user.

The combination of Behr et al. in view of Kline et al. still fails to show or suggest the invention, as claimed. There is not suggestion in the prior art of record to modify Behr et al., so as to send a voice inquiry for travel directions to the computer system. Further, there is no suggestion in the prior art of record to send the data travel directions from the computer system of behr et al. to a user's mailbox. It is noted that Kline et al. teach translating a text message to a voice message once it is received in the user's mailbox. However, there is not link in the prior art which would show or suggest sending a data message from the system of Behr et al. to a mailbox translation service, as taught by Kline et al.

The missing links in the combinations can only be discerned from the Applicant's disclosure. Applicant appreciated the need in the art, and the shortcomings of systems such as Behr et al. It would be hindsight to combine a system such as Behr et al. with a completely unrelated system such as Kline et al., in order to arrive at the presently claimed invention.

For the reasons as stated above, reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that

the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn.

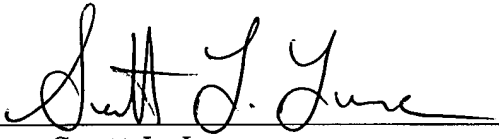
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mr. Scott L. Lowe (Reg. No. 41,458) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Applicant respectfully petitions under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and 1.17 for a one-month extension of time in which to respond to the Examiner's Office Action. Please charge Deposit Account 50-1602 in the amount of \$110.00 for the one-month extension of time fee.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and further replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1602 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Scott L. Lowe
Registration No. 41,458

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22032-0747
(703) 205-8000

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